

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505


*Yml RUK*  
*CAE 14 Jul*

MEMORANDUM

Officials of this Agency have reviewed the reference to the Central Intelligence Agency in paragraph four of the attached memo dated 3 September 1954 from Corbin Allardice to Lewis L. Strauss.

They have determined that it contains no classified information.

STATINTL

  
Office of Legislative Counsel

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Approved For Release 2002/01/23 : CIA-RDP77M00144R000300070023-0

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

Legislative Counsel

EXTENSION

6136

NO.

DATE

11 April 1975

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

[REDACTED]

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Attached is a copy of the letter which the JCAE staff would like declassified. The only portion concerning the Agency is in paragraph 4.

This portion has been reviewed by the Nuclear Energy Division of OSI. That office determined that it contains no classified information nor are any sensitive sources and methods disclosed.

As we discussed over the 'phone, I'm sending you a copy for your files and will advise the Joint Committee staff accordingly.

[REDACTED]  
OLC

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COPY

September 3, 1954

This document consists of 2 pages  
No. 1 of 1 Copies, Series SSA

PERSOIAL

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MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. Lewis L. Strauss  
FROM: Corbin Allardice  
SUBJECT: National Association of Science Writers Address

In addition to being a good opportunity to correct some of the misconceptions that have been given to many writers by the perfectly scurrilous attacks of Pearson, Alsops, and others like them, upon you and upon the AEC Security and Information Control Program, the NASW meeting is an excellent forum for releasing other facts that need wide-spread dissemination. In the audience will be the top science writers from all over the country. All the wire services, the principal Metropolitan dailies, and the major periodicals will be represented.

One area that seems to me to need some public understanding is the problem of radioactive fall-out, particularly from megaton weapons. In order that you might consider the wisdom of discussing that subject at the NASW meeting, I have asked Fred deHoffman, while he was in town in connection with the Wedemeyer panel, to analyze from the technical declassification point of view whether the release of certain general information on the fall-out from megaton explosions would give the Russians any significant information which they do not already have. I think you will find Fred's memo to me interesting and helpful. I've always found him to be sound and conservative in these matters.

With Fred's technical help, I have taken the liberty of drafting some remarks on this subject to cover the points that might be made.

I do not believe we advantage ourselves vis-a-vis the Russians by remaining silent on this matter. There is evidence (from CIA) that in their military planning the Russians have taken a far more conservative view on the problems of radiation and radioactive fall-out than have we, and thus by hindsight, if not by foresight, the Russians have less "unlearning" to do now that megaton weapons make fall-out a significant effect, and indeed extend the area of potential fatal injury to thousands of square miles. With the increase of area of potential fatal injury, there is a concurrent increase in the number of people potentially killed. A 1954-type thermo-nuclear weapon exploded in the proper way over Washington, D. C. might endanger the lives of the millions of citizens living between Washington and Philadelphia--a horrifying, but nonetheless, useful military effect. This knowledge taken with Fred's memo and our own Civil Defense needs convinces me that it would be wise to consider now to take a carefully drawn release on the subject. I do not believe it necessary to give specific isotope curves at this time. But authoritative, generalized information is vitally needed.

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The Civil Defense implications of "megaton fall-outs" are touched upon in the attached draft. If you decide to go ahead, you will no doubt want to get the views of FCDA on the matter.

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